

RECOGNIZING KACIE CORNETT ON BEING NAMED THE 2021 YOUTH FEMALE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BY THE LAPEER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 5, 2021*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize to Kacie Cornett on being named the 2021 Youth Female Citizen of the Year by the Lapeer Area Chamber of Commerce. Kacie has logged 150 hours of volunteer work already in this school year despite COVID restrictions. She is a volunteer at the Paradise Animal Rescue, works with middle school girls through the "Grow to Glow" program, participated in charity runs, and is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Art Club, Photography Club, and the Drama Club. Through all this she has been able to maintain a 4.16 GP/A, ranking her 9th in her class. I thank Kacie for her tireless dedication and selfless service to the Lapeer Community.

RECOGNIZING JOE CULBERTSON

**HON. YVETTE HERRELL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 5, 2021*

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge this year's winner of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association's Ayudando Siempre Ali award, Joe Culbertson. Joe is a veteran of the United States Army and a great New Mexican who has worked tirelessly to better his community his entire life.

No stranger to representing the community around him, Joe has served as President and Vice President of the Northeastern New Mexico Livestock Association where he fought on behalf of the livestock industry. Additionally, he has served on the State Advisory Land Committee, the New Mexico Cattle Growers Water Committee, the Natural Resource Committee, and the county predator control board. Additionally, Joe has been a county representative on the Eastern Plains Council of Government, where he fought for rural issues.

Joe's service to his community spans over four decades. He helped start the local fire department in Rosebud in 1980 and has served both on the board of directors and as Assistant Fire Chief. He even helps on the ground as an EMT-basic and ambulance driver.

Currently serving as president of W.O. Culbertson & Sons, Inc., a family ranching business with roots dating back all the way to 1915, Joe knows the importance and impact that agriculture has on the community. He is an avid supporter of Future Farmers of America (FFA) so future generations can continue to contribute to their communities.

For his clear display of an attitude of service before self, I congratulate Joe on earning this well-deserved award.

HONORING STEPHEN GALE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 5, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Stephen Gale upon his retirement as Senior District Representative in my Santa Rosa office, and to recognize his longtime commitment to his community in Sonoma County.

Stephen knows the meaning of hard work. From picking apricots in his teens to earning the title of youngest Section Head at Hughes Aircraft Company, Stephen has been known as a humble, yet driven man. Not content with this early success, he returned to school, earning a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Southern California. Embarking on his second career, he found success as Director of Strategic Investments at Fair Isaac and founder of Wellspring Business Development.

Stephen has always had a passion for public service. Before joining my staff, he served as the Board of Public Utilities Chair for Santa Rosa, where he directed water distribution and spearheaded projects to develop renewable resources. He has also served as Business Representative to the County Commission that established the Sonoma-Marin Area Regional Transportation system and as the founding Chair of the North Bay Leadership Council. On top of his official duties, he found time to organize a week-long business simulation to teach entrepreneurial skills to high school students. For this, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors awarded him a Gold Resolution in recognition of his leadership.

Stephen's motivation to better our community led him to developing a passion for politics. In 2008, he was chosen to serve as Chair of the Sonoma County Democratic Party and revitalized the organization. His innate ability to bring together people of all political leanings, from progressives to moderates, helped him build a powerful Democratic coalition that secured Democratic victories and drove civic engagement. After the conclusion of his second term as chair, he joined the state party's Rules committee, where he used his expert knowledge of parliamentary procedures to ensure efficient and productive party activities.

For seven years, Stephen has served our district well as the Senior District Representative in my Santa Rosa district office. As my countywide liaison for Sonoma County, he has worked to advance the interests of many important facets of the county, including agricultural producers and labor. Additionally, he has helped to lead the community through many trials and tribulations, including the 2017 Tubbs fire and the Coronavirus pandemic. Notably, he was instrumental in advocating, both on the local and federal level, for the creation of the Veterans Village, which provided 14 homes for homeless veterans in Santa Rosa.

Madam Speaker, Stephen Gale has made our community proud everyday through his passion and commitment to Sonoma County. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARGIE AILEEN LITTLE RIGBY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 5, 2021*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 90th birthday of my dear friend Margie Aileen Little Rigby.

Margie was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and moved to Richmond, Virginia, when she was seven years old. After high school, Margie attended Trinity College in Clearwater, FL where she met her adoring husband, John William Rigby. Margie and John married and moved to Smiths Station, Alabama, where Margie still lives, surrounded by the joys of her life—her two kids, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Margie and John married in Richmond in 1952, where they began their 65 years of ministry, inspiring others and helping to spread God's word, and ended their illustrious journey in 2010 at Philadelphia Baptist Church in Smiths Station, Alabama. John was diagnosed with cancer a month later and battled the disease for seven years before being welcomed in God's arms in 2017.

Although Margie enjoyed being a schoolteacher, accountant and business owner, she felt most at home as a minister's wife. She taught children's church, new members, classes and Sunday school to so many people. Her spiritual gifts are teaching and writing, and she was a wonderful pastor's wife to many churches.

What stands out most to many who know Margie is her God-given ability to help many in the ministry who needed the assistance in navigating the challenges of being a pastor's wife. For many years, she taught others how to minister to those who have lost loved ones, who are going through tough times and how to grow in their faith. Margie overcame difficult times herself, raising her children for nine years as John traveled the nation preaching God's word. Her exceptional children and loving family are a testament to her goodness and resilience as a mother, and they would be the first to call her a Hero.

Madam Speaker, please join me, and so many adoring others, in celebrating Margie Aileen Little Rigby's 90th birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE LYNCHBURG AREA VETERANS COUNCIL

**HON. BEN CLINE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 5, 2021*

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the selfless efforts of the Lynchburg Area Veterans Council.

Come rain or shine, snow or sleet, nothing stands in the way of this group gathering at Monument Terrace in downtown Lynchburg every Friday to honor and support our troops.

This weekly gathering began nearly 20 years ago following the attacks on September 11th as American soldiers were heading into Afghanistan.

Since that time, the rallies have grown and those who drive by honk in support—which they say is the sound of freedom.

Their dedication to this endeavor has been unwavering, and last Friday I was proud to join them as they marked the 1000th consecutive week that folks have gathered at Monument Terrace to express their appreciation for our servicemembers.

And while I applaud the Council on this incredible milestone, I would also like to thank them for all of their work to get homeless veterans off the streets and into housing.

The Lynchburg Area Veterans Council, whose members consist of individuals who have fought in every conflict for the past seventy years, has done so much for our community, and the Sixth District is forever grateful.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE  
AND SERVICE OF CHIEF MASTER  
SERGEANT RICHARD HALL

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 5, 2021*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Mr. Richard Hall was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, the country's first Black military aviators in the U.S. Air Force.

Born in Georgia, Hall moved to Central Florida with his parents when he was five months old. A graduate of Robert Hungerford Boarding School in Eatonville, Hall received a four-year scholarship to Xavier University in New Orleans, LA. He joined the Army Air Force Reserves, and in 1942 was sent to fight in World War II.

Mr. Hall was among the first African American Chief Master Sergeants after integration in 1949. He served his country for over three decades and completed tours on four continents, including the Korean and Vietnam wars.

In 2007, Mr. Hall, along with other Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal from President George W. Bush. In Central Florida, he was honored with a life-sized sculpture that sits outside Hannibal Heritage Center.

Mr. Hall retired to Maitland in the 1980s and continued to call Central Florida home until his death on January 21, 2021.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID D.  
MOON

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 5, 2021*

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on the occasion of the Lunar New Year, to recognize and congratulate Mr. David D. Moon for his success as the Chairman and Founder of the Sam Moon Group. Mr. David Moon's impressive career in the retail sector has made an immeasurable contribution to the Texas economy.

Mr. David Moon's career began after his relocation from South Korea to the United States as a salesman for a wig manufacturing firm in 1971. A little more than ten years later, he fol-

lowed through on his vision of building a family business rooted in integrity and diligence and established Sam Moon Trading, Inc. As the success of this business grew, he continued to open new Sam Moon Trading Company locations, which now span the state of Texas. Marked by their savvy ability to offer desirable women's fashion at low costs, Sam Moon Trading Company quickly became a household name. The Sam Moon Trading Company has now expanded into the Sam Moon Group, an enterprise of real estate development, dining, retail, and entertainment.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. David Moon has served on the Board of Trustees for Dallas Baptist University and received numerous accolades including a Lifetime Achievement Award from Dallas Asian-American Chamber of Commerce; a Citizen's Medal of Merit from the Government of the Republic of Korea; and an Honorary Doctor of Humanities from Dallas Baptist University.

Mr. David Moon has a degree from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and currently resides in Las Colinas, Texas with his wife In Sun Moon.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the achievements of Mr. David Moon, and wish him good fortune and happiness in the New Year.

HONORING PATRICK FORD AS  
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 5, 2021*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise before the House to honor Mr. Patrick Ford, Doctor of Physical Therapy and CoFounder and President of Project Onyx. Patrick, who lives in Bondurant with his family, is an example of how an individual can turn their words of wanting to make the world a better place into concrete actions that improve the lives of those in our communities. Through the work of Project Onyx, Patrick and fellow co-founder, Mr. Elijah Muhammad, owner of Unorthodox Fitness, work to "envision a community full of healthy, active individuals who have equal access to health and fitness services provided by diverse and culturally competent professionals" and currently work with a group of 20 young men from around Central Iowa.

After the death of George Floyd in the summer of 2020, Patrick felt called to take action within his community. Reflecting on his own experiences as a biracial Black American, he wanted to work to create a world that would be more just for his daughter to grow up. In June of 2020, he approached Elijah with the idea to address underrepresentation and disparities in health outcomes for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and as a result, 'Project Onyx' was created. He became determined to work toward increasing representation in the field of health and fitness and encouraging young BIPOC to enter or explore a career within the health field; having seen firsthand the racial disparities in access to healthcare, fitness, and wellness programs as a full-time physical therapist.

The goal for 2021 is to expand programming beyond the current location in Grimes and allow young people from across Central Iowa to access Project Onyx and double the current participation. In addition to health and wellness services, Patrick's vision for a youth empowerment program came to fruition as a program that blends a physical workout with conversations and dialogue about community issues. Project Onyx's mentorship program provides a launching pad for BIPOC youth who are interested in careers in health and wellness by giving them hands-on experience and career guidance. In the future the partners would like to work towards funding for scholarship opportunities and additional ways to reduce barriers towards a career in health, whether this be a certificate program or four-year degree.

Patrick is keenly aware of the importance of access to health and wellness programs and understands the negative impact of the absence of these programs in communities of color. Through Project Onyx, Patrick is using his education and experiences to help remedy this cultural inequity and serves as an example to all of us of how we can make a difference in our communities. Having never previously felt compelled to take action or be an activist he reevaluated his priorities and determined to make the world a better place for his daughter to live.

I commend Patrick for beginning to address the important work of breaking barriers and creating an avenue for BIPOC to be brought into the field of health and wellness. By providing this service to the community and expanding the reach of Project Onyx many young people from across Central Iowa will be given the opportunity to make our State more inclusive and result in better outcomes for all regardless of race. I thank Patrick, for his service in our community.

RECOGNIZING JIM AND DEBRA  
KRANZ ON BEING NAMED THE  
2021 CITIZENS OF THE YEAR BY  
THE CASS CITY CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

**HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 5, 2021*

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Jim and Debra Kranz on being named the 2021 Citizens of the Year by the Cass City Chamber of Commerce. Jim and Debra Kranz were former longtime owners of the Kranz Funeral Homes. In their free time, Jim and Debra are highly engaged in their community. Debra is a member of the Rotary Club, and the former president of the Cass City High School Band Boosters, as well as a former member of both the Hills and Dales General Hospital Board of Directors, and the Cass City Women's Club. Jim has been a member of the Cass City Downtown Development Authority and the Rotary Club. I thank Jim and Debra for their tireless dedication and selfless service to the Cass City Community.